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Montréal Communiqué

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YMCA'S KAMP KANAWANA SET FOR RECORD SUMMER

There's nothing stodgy about the Montreal YMCA's Kamp Kanawana. It's status as Canada's longest established summer camp might inhibit some administrators, but not the personnel in charge of this operation.

In 1968 it was girls and horses. In response to enthusiastic requests from parents, capacity of the co-ed sections is being doubled.

This summer Kanawana is introducing a special French-language program for English-speaking boys. Next year--well, the Y's Camping Commission is looking ahead.

"Good things don't just happen at camp--they're made to happen. That's why the far-sighted youth workers who plan programs also participate in the training of staff who work with youngsters," observes Geoff Anderson, Director of Kanawana.

Despite the way it has evolved and grown since 1894, Kanawana's main emphases remain on fun, the encouragement of initiative and self-

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development, physical fitness, sports, aquatics and the preparation of youngsters for adolescence and the post-teenage years.

In addition to section directors, supervisors, a diversified team of activity specialists, a resident doctor and nurse, and a dietician-- Kanawana's staff includes one counsellor for every seven campers. Every youngster gets the attention he needs.

"It's not all go, go, go. There are chances to read quietly, start hobby shop projects or observe the moon through a telescope. Whatever a child's interests, we'll have someone experienced to help him or her enjoy it," says Mr. Anderson.

Participants in Kanawana's new French section will be quartered in a converted farm building which adjoins the main property. There will be one French-speaking counsellor for every five boys, all supervised by a special director and a language co-ordinator.

"Instead of classrooms and school-type texts, leaders of this forward-looking program will use Kanawana's wide range of vacation-time facilities to motivate their charges to learn while playing."

Part of each day will, however, be reserved for study, but also in an atmosphere of relaxed informality.

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Mr. Anderson emphasizes that though Kanawana is located just 50 miles from Montreal, near St. Sauveur, it covers more than 1,000 acres of playing fields, woodlands and lakes.

Its range of activities includes: horseback riding; swimming; canoeing; rowing; sailing; arts & crafts; skin diving; naturelore; archery; riflery; hiking; sports instruction.

"Pre-registration to date indicates this will be our biggest summer ever," says Mr. Anderson.

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